

CLAIMS

1. The use of ulvans, in particular extracted from green algae of the genus *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha*, or of ulvan-derived oligosaccharides, as
5 activators of plant defense and resistance reactions against biotic or abiotic stresses.

2. The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the abovementioned ulvans are extracted from algae chosen from the group consisting of the following species: *Ulva armoricana*, *Ulva rigida*, *Ulva*
10 *rotundata*, *Ulva lactuca*, *Enteromorpha intestinalis* and *Enteromorpha compressa*, preferably *Ulva armoricana*, *Enteromorpha intestinalis* and *Enteromorpha compressa*.

3. The use as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the abovementioned extracts are obtained by means of a method generally
15 comprising the following steps: washing, milling, extraction (solid-liquid separation) and, optionally, fractionation and concentration.

4. The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the abovementioned ulvan-derived oligosaccharides are obtained by acid hydrolysis or enzymatic hydrolysis.

20 5. The use as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the effective amount of ulvans or of ulvan-derived oligosaccharides given to the plants is from 0.1 to 100 g per liter, and preferably of the order of 1 g per liter, when applied in liquid form via the leaves, in nutritive solutions for the roots (hydroponics, dropwise, etc.) or in solutions for
25 seed or post-harvest treatment, or else from 10 to 1000 g per hectare, and preferably of the order of 200 g per hectare, when applied in solid form, for example in pulverulent or granulated products.

6. A method for activating plant defense and resistance reactions against biotic or abiotic stresses, characterized in that it comprises the
30 application, to said plants, of an effective amount of ulvans, in particular extracted from green algae of the genus *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha*, or of ulvan-derived oligosaccharides.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the application to the plants is carried out via the leaves or via the roots.

35 8. The method as claimed in claim 6 or 7, characterized in that the effective amount given to the plants is from 0.1 g to 100 g per liter, and

preferably of the order of 1 g per liter, when applied in liquid form via the leaves, in nutritive solutions for the roots (hydroponics, dropwise, etc.) or in solutions for seed or post-harvest treatment, or else from 10 to 1000 g per hectare, and preferably of the order of 200 g per hectare, when
5 applied in solid form in pulverulent or granulated products.

9. A plant-protection product, characterized in that it comprises an effective amount of at least one ulvan, in particular extracted from green algae of the genus *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha*, or an ulvan-derived oligosaccharide, optionally in combination with one or more fertilizing
10 substances.

10. The plant-protection product as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that it is in the form of a liquid or in the form of a powder or of granules, and in that it contains an amount of ulvans or of ulvan-derived oligosaccharides which makes it possible to give the plants from
15 0.1 g to 100 g per liter, and preferably of the order of 1 g per liter, when applied in liquid form, or else from 10 to 1000 g per hectare, and preferably of the order of 200 g per hectare, when applied in solid form in pulverulent or granulated products.